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**STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
1000 N.E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 1102  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73117-1299**

**February 13, 2018**

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**CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND CONFIRMATION OF A QUORUM**

10 Martha Burger, President of the Oklahoma State Board of Health, called the meeting of the Oklahoma State Board  
11 of Health to order on Tuesday, February 13 at 11:06 a.m. Charles W. Grim, D.D.S. and Jenny Alexopoulos, D.O.  
12 joined the meeting at 11:09 a.m. The final agenda was posted at 9:35 a.m. on the OSDH website on February 12,  
2018, and at 9:20 a.m. at the building entrance on February 12, 2018.

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14 Members in Attendance: Martha A. Burger, M.B.A, President; Cris Hart-Wolfe, Vice-President; Robert S.  
15 Stewart, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer; Jenny Alexopoulos, D.O.; Charles W. Grim, D.D.S.; R. Edward A. Legako,  
16 M.D.; Murali Krishna, M.D., Timothy E. Starkey, M.B.A.

17 Absent: Terry R. Gerard, D.O.  
18

19 Central Staff Present: Preston Doerflinger, Interim Commissioner of Health; Henry F. Hartsell, Deputy  
20 Commissioner, Protective Health Services; Tina Johnson, Deputy Commissioner, Community & Family Health  
21 Services; Gunnar McFadden, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Community & Family Health Services; Julie Ezell,  
22 General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; Tony Sellars, Director, Office of Communications; Brian Downs,  
23 Office of State and Federal Policy; Kristy Bradley, State Epidemiologist, Office of State Epidemiologist; Jan Fox,  
24 Director, HIV/STD Services; Beth Martin, Interim Director, Family Support & Prevention Services; Adrienne  
25 Rollins, Interim Director, Center for Health Innovation & Effectiveness; Margot Barnes, Director, Human  
26 Resources; Sara Cowden, Commissioner's Office; Leigh Newby, Revenue Officer, Financial Services; Sharon  
27 Butler, Informatics; Don Smalling, Interim Director, Office of Accountability Systems; Diane Hanley, Executive  
28 Assistant, Commissioner's Office; and Kim Bailey, Chief Operating Officer.  
29

30 Visitors in attendance: Gary Cox, Executive Director, Oklahoma City-County Health Department; Bruce Dart,  
31 Executive Director, Tulsa City-County Health Department; Tom Gruber, Senior Deputy Attorney General; Kim  
32 Heaton, Office of the Attorney General; David Dude, American Cancer Society; Cara Gluck, OSDH Regional  
33 Director; Mendy Spohn, OSDH Regional Director; Matt Photos, KOKH-TV & KOCO-TV; Paul Monies,  
34 Oklahoma Watch; Dylan GoForth, Frontier; Brianna Bailey, Frontier; Meg Wingerter, Oklahoman; and Ian Smith,  
35 KFOR.  
36

37 **REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

38 Ms. Burger directed attention toward approval of the Minutes for the January 9, 2018 regular meeting. **Dr.**  
39 **Legako moved Board approval of the January 9th meeting minutes as presented. Second Mr. Starkey.**  
40 **Motion Carried.**  
41

42 **AYE: Alexopoulos, Burger, Grim, Krishna, Legako, Starkey, Stewart, Wolfe**  
43 **ABSENT: Gerard**  
44

45 **STATE OF THE STATE'S HEALTH STATUS UPDATE**

46 Mr. Derek Pate, Director, Center for Health Statistics, and his staff are working to finalize the State of the State's  
47 Health (SOSH) website. Webinars will be held for the board members to provide a closer look at the website  
48 and also to share any insight or feedback before the website is published. Mr. Pate provided some historical  
49 context for the State of the State's Health Report and how it has evolved over time. As updates to the report  
50 were needed once again, several listening sessions were conducted in late 2016 and early 2017, with a wide  
51 variety of community stakeholders, to get feedback on how to improve the report. Based on the feedback  
52 received from those sessions, the State of the State's Health website was developed. Since that time additional  
53 website enhancements have been made and moving forward the SOSH website will be routinely updated on an  
54 ongoing basis.  
55

**CONSIDERATION OF STANDING COMMITTEES REPORTS AND ACTION****Executive Committee**

Ms. Burger reported that the committee discussed public health issues currently in the news, namely the flu and measles. Other topics of discussion included changes in the finance area and the Board of Health meetings possibly visiting some county health departments.

**Finance Committee**

Ms. Wolfe introduced Kim Bailey, Chief Operating Officer. She came to the health department from the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC) where she served as Executive Director and General Counsel. She has a degree from Georgetown University and a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Oklahoma. She is taking on additional duties and will be the Acting Chief Financial Officer. Ms. Wolfe also thanked the staff of financial services who continue to work diligently toward an efficient resolution.

**Accountability, Ethics, & Audit Committee**

Dr. Grim indicated there were no known significant audit issues to report at this time.

**Public Health Policy Committee**

Dr. Stewart reminded everyone that the legislature is now back in session. There was a lot of interest at the Capitol on the proposed revenue package. One of the health department's legislative priorities is the cigarette tax which was included in this revenue package. Although this revenue package failed to make it through the legislature, smoking cessation is one of the most important things one can do as advocates of public health. It will remain a priority for OSDH.

Dr. Stewart also shared that policy staff have been working to identify bills they think will have a public health impact. Those bills are divided into categories and then distributed to Senior Leadership for further monitoring. Three broad areas are emerging in this legislative session around immunizations, medical marijuana, and governance. Dr. Stewart reminded the Board that State Question 788, Medical Marijuana Legalization, will be on the ballot for June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and if the bill passes, some of the implementation will belong to the Oklahoma State Department of Health. Dr. Stewart mentioned that it will be important to provide leadership on governance so it remains a strong advocate for public health. The Board will continue to receive regular updates on the bills OSDH is tracking.

**REPORT OF THE INTERIM COMMISSIONER**

Mr. Doerflinger shared that the agency continues moving forward in finances. Many folks are doing great work and have continued to identify operational areas of concern that will contribute to the overall financial health of the agency. Mr. Doerflinger also mentioned that recommendations have come from the Joint Commission on Public Health and the Board will need to see those recommendations. Last, Mr. Doerflinger asked Dr. Kristy Bradley, State Epidemiologist, to provide an update on influenza and a measles case her team has been working on.

Dr. Bradley reported that this has been a severe flu season. Immunization Service, Acute Disease Service, Public Health Laboratory and the county health departments have been on the front lines of this flu response. Early on Oklahoma was having more of the Type A flu and then shifted to H3N2, the strain of flu that is most associated with severe illness, hospitalization and death. The flu season epidemic peaked the third week of January and there is now a decline in hospitalizations and less patience visits for flu like illness. Currently, the public health lab has seen Type B flu and H1N1 emerge over the last week. Dr. Bradley shared that it is possible to get the flu more than once in a season due to the different strains of the flu. Dr. Legako noted it is still important to get a flu vaccine. On the OSDH website, there is a weekly viral disease surveillance report, *Flu View*, and it is updated every Thursday at 10 a.m.

Mr. Gary Cox, Executive Director, Oklahoma City-County Health Department shared that their facility held a free drive-through clinic on a Saturday morning for four hours. The event went very well and they were able to give 430 flu shots to those who were appreciative and who otherwise may not have received a flu shot.

1 Dr. Bradley provided an update on a recently reported measles case. A team of epidemiologists met with staff at  
2 the Cleveland County Health Department to identify where the contagious person had been and to determine  
3 who might have been at risk. A press release was put out identifying locations of possible exposure. Everyone  
4 was cooperative through the process and OSDH staff was able to provide information on symptom follow-up  
5 and guidance on appropriate infection control practices that could be followed in healthcare facilities to  
6 minimize future exposures or spread. Measles is one of the most contagious viral diseases. This measles case  
7 is very rare for Oklahoma and occurred because of international travel.  
8

9 Mr. Tom Gruber, Senior Deputy Attorney General, advised the Board to go into Executive Session  
10 concerning pending claims because he has determined that disclosure will seriously impair the ability of the  
11 Board to conduct a pending proceeding in the public interest.  
12

13 **CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION AND VOTE TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

14 **PURSUANT TO 25 O.S. Section 307(B)(4)** for confidential communications between the Board and its  
15 attorney concerning pending investigations, claims, or actions, if the Board, with the advice of its attorney,  
16 determines that the disclosure will seriously impair the ability of the Board to conduct a pending proceeding  
17 in the public interest.

18 **Dr. Krishna moved Board approval to go into Executive Session at 11:42 AM. Second Dr. Grim.**  
19 **Motion carried.**  
20

21 **AYE: Alexopulos, Burger, Grim, Krishna, Legako, Starkey, Stewart, Wolfe**

22 **ABSENT: Gerard**  
23

24 **CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION AND VOTE TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.**

25 **Dr. Stewart moved Board approval to move out of Executive Session at 12:40 PM. Second Ms. Wolfe.**  
26 **Motion carried.**  
27

28 **AYE: Alexopulos, Burger, Grim, Krishna, Legako, Starkey, Stewart, Wolfe**

29 **ABSENT: Gerard**  
30

31 **CONSIDERATION, POSSIBLE ACTION AND VOTE ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE**  
32 **SESSION.**

33 **No action taken.**  
34

35 **NEW BUSINESS**

36 Mr. Tom Gruber, Senior Deputy Attorney General, advised the Board, according to Oklahoma law, that new  
37 business information received within the last 24 hours met the criteria for going into Executive Session.  
38

39 **CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION AND VOTE TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

40 **PURSUANT TO 25 O.S. Section 307(B)(1) to discuss the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion,**  
41 **demotion, disciplining or resignation of the Interim Commissioner of Health.**

42 **Dr. Grim moved Board approval to move into Executive Session at 12:41. Second Dr. Stewart. Motion**  
43 **carried.**  
44

45 **AYE: Alexopulos, Burger, Grim, Krishna, Legako, Starkey, Stewart, Wolfe**

46 **ABSENT: Gerard**  
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48 **CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION AND VOTE TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.**

49 **Dr. Krishna moved Board approval to move out of Executive Session at 2:29 PM. Second Dr. Grim.**  
50 **Motion carried.**  
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52 **AYE: Alexopulos, Burger, Grim, Krishna, Legako, Starkey, Stewart**

53 **ABSENT: Gerard, Wolfe**  
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**CONSIDERATION, POSSIBLE ACTION AND VOTE ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**Dr. Stewart moved Board approval to accept the resignation letter of Preston Doerflinger, Interim Commissioner of Health effective immediately. Second Dr. Krishna. Motion carried.**

**AYE: Alexopulos, Burger, Grim, Krishna, Legako, Starkey, Stewart  
ABSENT: Gerard, Wolfe**

**Dr. Stewart moved Board approval to appoint Brian Downs as Acting Commissioner of Health until an Interim Commissioner of Health can be identified. Second Dr. Alexopulos. Motion carried.**

**AYE: Alexopulos, Burger, Grim, Krishna, Legako, Starkey, Stewart  
ABSENT: Gerard, Wolfe**

Ms. Burger shared that the Board does have a committee that will begin to vet potential Interim Commissioners. The committee will make recommendations to the Board. The Board hopes to have candidates ready for vetting in the next 30-60 days.

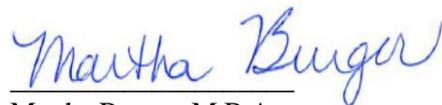
**ADJOURNMENT**

**Dr. Grim moved Board approval to Adjourn. Second Dr. Alexopulos. Motion carried.**

**AYE: Alexopulos, Burger, Grim, Krishna, Legako, Starkey, Stewart  
ABSENT: Gerard, Wolfe**

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Approved



Martha Burger, M.B.A.  
President, Oklahoma State Board of Health  
March 13, 2018